



# Community Health Status Indicators

## CHSI 2009

*Our Mission: Provide Information for Improving Community Health*

### About the Community Health Status Indicators Project

The Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) Project was initially launched in 2000 and archived in 2004 when the data became outdated. Since then the project was updated with funding from Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and re-launched by an expanded partnership that included the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (including NCHS and ATSDR), the National Institutes of Health/National Library of Medicine, the Health Resources Services Administration, the Public Health Foundation, the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH), and Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health in 2008. Annual updates are anticipated with 2009 being the latest.

The re-launch of CHSI includes 3,141 county health status profiles representing each county in the United States excluding territories. CHSI now includes updated data, select mapping capabilities of health indicators, and a website where the public can access and download the data and information. While some relatively minor modifications have been made to the reports, no new indicators were added.

### Public Health

- Prevents epidemics and the spread of disease
- Protects against environmental hazards
- Prevents injuries
- Promotes and encourages healthy behaviors
- Responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery
- Assures the quality and accessibility of health services

### Essential Public Health Services

- Monitor health status to identify community health problems
- Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community
- Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues
- Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems
- Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts
- Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety
- Link people to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable

Each CHSI report includes data on access and utilization of healthcare services, birth and death measures, Healthy People 2010 targets and U.S. birth and death rates, vulnerable populations, risk-factors for premature deaths, communicable diseases and environmental health. In addition, the presentation of the data allows for comparisons of a county to peer counties, U.S. rates, and Healthy People 2010 targets.

The goal of CHSI is to give local public health agencies another tool for improving their community's health by identifying resources and setting priorities.

CHSI is the SPARK PLUG for your local health improvement ENGINE!

- **Assure a competent public health and personal health care workforce**
- **Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services**
- **Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems**

*Source: Public Health Functions Steering Committee, Fall 1994.*